

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1668 - SB 2401**

February 19, 2020

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Revises the requirements for bounty hunting. Enhances the penalty for a person that serves as a bounty hunter that has been convicted of, plead guilty to, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to any felony.

Creates a Class E felony offense for a person that serves as a bounty hunter that has been convicted of, plead guilty to, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to any violation of any federal or state law or local ordinance relating to force, violence, theft, dishonesty, gambling, alcoholic beverages, controlled substance, or controlled substance analogue.

Creates Class A misdemeanor offenses for any person that serves as a bounty hunter that has been convicted of, plead guilty to, or entered a plea of nolo contendere that operates a motor vehicle to pursue another motor vehicle in any manner that constitutes a violation of Tenn. Code Ann. Title 55 Chapter 8 or in violation of any local ordinance, or serves as a bounty hunter and has been released or discharged under any circumstances other than an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States.

Requires the Department of Commerce and Insurance (DCI) to approve courses required for carrying or possessing any weapon or using or maintaining any animal as equipment in the practice of bounty hunting.

Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to conduct a review of certification and qualification requirements of bounty hunters in all other states and to compile findings into a report no later than December 31, 2020.

The proposed legislation is effective January 1, 2021, except the AOC report requirement is effective upon becoming law.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-11-318(b), it is a Class A misdemeanor offense for any person convicted of a felony to serve as a bounty hunter in Tennessee.
- The proposed legislation enhances such offense to a Class E felony.

- Based on information provided by the AOC, there have been zero convictions under Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-11-318 over the last five years. Any impact resulting from enhancing the penalty to a Class E felony offense is estimated to be not significant.
- Any impact to state or local incarceration resulting from revising the penalty for serving as a bounty hunter with an outlined disqualification is estimated to be not significant.
- The proposed legislation requires the DCI to approve weapons and canine courses for bounty hunters.
- Any impact to DCI to certify weapons or canine courses provided by third party entities will be accomplished utilizing existing resources. Any fiscal impact to DCI is estimated to be not significant.
- Any impact to the AOC to conduct a review and compile a report will be accomplished utilizing existing resources. Any fiscal impact to AOC is estimated to be not significant.

### **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/amj